



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

980 Ninth Street, Suite 400
Sacramento, CA. 95814-2724

August 1, 2003

To
PROGRAMMING

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

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Mr. Jeff Morales, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: For Kris Balaji, Federal Transportation Programming

Dear Mr. Morales:

SUBJECT: AMBAG 2002/03-2004/05 MTIP/FSTIP AMENDMENT NO. 6

We received your letter dated July 1, 2003, requesting the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) approve those modifications to California's federally mandated statewide transportation improvement program (FSTIP) proposed in Amendment No. 6 to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) 2002/03-2004/05 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP). The AMBAG Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 2003-9 on June 11, 2003, approving these program modifications and reaffirming the conformity of the transportation improvement program with the applicable State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality. As detailed in the enclosures to your letter, this amendment modifies project listings in the local highway, state highway, and transit elements of the AMBAG MTIP.

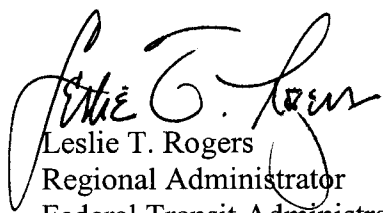
We have completed our review of AMBAG's 2002/03-2004/05 MTIP Amendment No. 6 and accept the modifications proposed in the amendment for projects listed in the triennial element (i.e. 2002/03-2004/05) of California's FSTIP. Information provided by AMBAG concerning modifications to project listings in the "additional years" (i.e., 2005/06 or beyond) of the AMBAG metropolitan TIP are considered by the FHWA and FTA only as informational pursuant to 23 CFR 450.216(a)(2). We find that the AMBAG metropolitan TIP, including Amendment No. 6, was developed through a continuing, cooperative and comprehensive transportation planning process in accord with the metropolitan transportation planning provisions of 23 USC §134 and 49 USC Chapter 53.

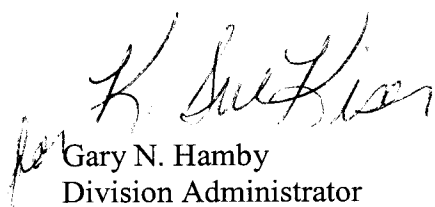
We have determined that the AMBAG 2002/03-2006/07 MTIP, including the modifications adopted as part of Amendment No. 6, conforms to the applicable SIP in accordance with the provisions of 40 CFR parts 51 and 93; the January 2, 2002, *Revised Guidance for Implementing the March 1999 Circuit Court Decision Affecting Transportation Conformity*; and the Environmental Protection Agency's May 14, 1999, *Conformity Guidance on Implementation of March 2, 1999 Conformity Court Decision*. This joint FHWA/FTA air quality conformity determination for the amended AMBAG MTIP is required by Section 93.104 of the

Environmental Protection Agency's August 15, 1997, *Transportation Conformity Rule Amendments: Flexibility and Streamlining: Final Rule*, 40 CFR Part 51 and 93 (*Transportation Conformity Rule*) and the FHWA/FTA Metropolitan Planning Rule, 23 CFR Part 450. Based on our review, we find that the projects listed for implementation in AMBAG's amended MTIP have been included in the regional emissions analysis for the AMBAG long-range transportation plan, and that the design concept and scope for the projects are sufficiently detailed to determine the contribution to regional emissions at the time of the conformity determination for AMBAG's long-range plan. We find that the design concept, scope and implementation schedules of the projects listed in the AMBAG MTIP are not significantly different from that described in the AMBAG long-range transportation plan. This conformity finding has been coordinated with the regional office of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

This approval is provided with the understanding that Federal Transit Administration funding approval on individual projects contained the FSTIP are subject to grantees meeting all necessary FTA administrative requirements.

Sincerely,


Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator
Federal Transit Administration


Gary N. Hamby
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

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c:

AMBAG FTIP Binder

Whobbs/lmg